

December 6, 2016

Ms. Dawn Francis
Town Manager
Town of Colchester
781 Blakely Road
Colchester, VT 05446

Dear Ms. Francis:

At the outset, I would like to reiterate my thanks for the excellent services that you and your staff provide for the residents of Colchester. I truly believe that staff is customer oriented and goes out of its way to ensure that you provide the timely, quality service to all residents in Colchester.

However, there is a lingering issue that I feel is discriminatory and unfair with respect to snowplowing done by the Town. Spaldings West Shore Association (SWSA) has tried in the past to obtain snowplowing for our roads (Entrance Road, North Beach Road, Beach Road and Old Well Road) now that the area has begun to convert from seasonal to year round residency. I was directed to Mr. Osborne who has said that these roads are private and the Town is not going to plow any more private roads. This is in spite of the fact that there are private (albeit grandfathered) roads that are being plowed.

As I have stated above, that is discriminatory and unequal treatment for SWSA taxpayers. SWSA members pay taxes on an equitable basis with every other taxpayer in Colchester but they are treated disparately with respect to the full Town services. It should be noted that the taxes at SWSA are some of the highest with respect to per acre of land values. While we enjoy Police and Fire/Rescue services, plowing is not provided. Our private water system was installed at SWSA expense in 2005 and was later ceded to the Water District to operate. I would point out that new residential permits pay an impact fee but there are no children enrolled in Colchester schools. One could say that we are a minimal tax burden to the Town. There are those that would say that we are a cash cow.

This brings us back to the issue of snowplowing. The Governance Study Group had noted this in their deliberations in the past as an issue that was disparate across the Town and needed to be addressed. To date, it has not been done. During my discussion with Mr. Osborne, he noted that the Town could not add any additional tax burden for plowing. He further stated that if this became an issue, it would probably result in eliminating the grandfathered private roads from future plowing.

On the attached sheet, I have included the total assessed value for all of SWSA and their relevant tax bills. While I will not claim that the spreadsheet is 100% correct, I would submit that it is directionally accurate as I took it from the most recent Grand List. As you can see, we pay close to \$418,000 in taxes. I should think that this revenue stream would be sufficient for the Town to reconsider their position for plowing our small area in consideration of our tax payments. Our contracting for snowplowing for the past two years has resulted in an outlay of about \$1500. This illustrates how minimal the cost is but as I have stated, this is not so much a cost issue for SWSA as it is a disparate treatment issue.

I am hopeful that we can reach an amicable solution to our request. I would be happy to discuss this matter with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

David C. Cohen

David C. Cohen
21 North Beach Road
Colchester, VT 05446
862-0664
vtcdco@aol.com

Snowplow Appeal			
Resident	Assessment	Rate	Taxes
Sherburne	529,300	1.9553	\$ 10,349.40
Wiquist	319,300	2.1245	\$ 6,783.53
Richard Briggs	416,800	2.1245	\$ 8,854.92
Corologos	443,500	2.1245	\$ 9,422.16
David Cohen	573,500	1.9553	\$ 11,213.65
T. Campbell	576,200	1.9553	\$ 11,266.44
Jim Leddy	541,000	2.1245	\$ 11,493.55
Colbourn	456,500	2.1245	\$ 9,698.34
Karen Halsted	547,200	2.1245	\$ 11,625.26
Gadue	549,900	2.1245	\$ 11,682.63
Richard Hawkins	400,600	2.1245	\$ 8,510.75
Mark Heinrich	472,200	2.1245	\$ 10,031.89
Fitzgerald	458,300	2.1245	\$ 9,736.58
Ann Sairs	447,800	2.1245	\$ 9,513.51
Cary Halsted	428,100	2.1245	\$ 9,094.98
Irwin	423,100	2.1245	\$ 8,988.76
Arnold	399,500	2.1245	\$ 8,487.38
Wong	655,100	2.1245	\$ 13,917.60
Boileau	531,700	2.1245	\$ 11,295.97
Pam Simendinger	480,500	2.1245	\$ 10,208.22
Belisle	401,300	2.1245	\$ 8,525.62
Vincent Ziccolella	666,000	2.1245	\$ 14,149.17
Belisle	425,300	2.1245	\$ 9,035.50
Ron Tucker	395,700	1.9553	\$ 7,737.12
Farnham	523,700	2.1245	\$ 11,126.01
Colbert	434,700	2.1245	\$ 9,235.20
Ann Ripley	417,800	2.1245	\$ 8,876.16
Considine	170,800	2.1245	\$ 3,628.65
John Leddy	170,900	2.1245	\$ 3,630.77
Bill Gill	159,600	2.1245	\$ 3,390.70
Eric Kruger	273,600	1.9553	\$ 5,349.70
Dragon	187,200	2.1245	\$ 3,977.06
Steve Kruger	346,100	1.9553	\$ 6,767.29
Southworth	297,000	2.1245	\$ 6,309.77
Darby	244,900	2.1245	\$ 5,202.90
Mildred Fraser	272,600	2.1245	\$ 5,791.39
Martha Kimball	233,300	2.1245	\$ 4,956.46
Robert Beauvais	189,000	2.1245	\$ 4,015.31
Irwin	151,700	2.1245	\$ 3,222.87
Parker	163,200	2.1245	\$ 3,467.18
Pease	153,600	2.1245	\$ 3,263.23
Janet Tilley	157,300	2.1245	\$ 3,341.84
Mary Aloi (Heinrich Hq)	155,200	2.1245	\$ 3,297.22
Harrington	206,700	2.1245	\$ 4,391.34
Angela Longe	159,500	2.1245	\$ 3,388.58
Caporale	151,400	2.1245	\$ 3,216.49
Jane Smith	188,900	2.1245	\$ 4,013.18
Wingate	373,600	1.9553	\$ 7,305.00
L. Campbell	265,500	1.9553	\$ 5,191.32
Farrell	156,800	2.1245	\$ 3,331.22
Ivy	262,100	2.1245	\$ 5,568.31
Cassel	292,000	2.1245	\$ 6,203.54
Anderson	148,100	2.1245	\$ 3,146.38
Ken Tilley	152,200	2.1245	\$ 3,233.49
Semenza/Camelot Partners LLC	152,300	2.1245	\$ 3,235.61
Gunther/Thabault	188,300	2.1245	\$ 4,000.43
Turner	395,700	2.1245	\$ 8,406.65
Stecklare	162,900	2.1245	\$ 3,460.81
Hayes	238,400	2.1245	\$ 5,064.81
Petrovito	192,800	2.1245	\$ 4,096.04
Total	19,927,800		\$ 417,725.83